S. No.	Name of the company	Name of Chairman/CMD/ MD
108.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.	Sh. S.K. Gupta, CMD
109.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	Sh. K. Aprameyan, Chairman
110.	Water & Power Consultancy Services (India)Ltd.	Sh. P.L. Diwan, CMD
111.	Western Coalfields Ltd.	Sh. S.V. Chaoji, CMD

Visit by Minister abroad

1592. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the countries visited by her predecessor/her during the last two years; and

(b) the details of achievements of those visit, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Foreign visits of Minister and of her predecessor

Shri Arun Jaitley, the then Minister of State of Information and Broadcasting visited Syria and Dubai from 28th January to 1st February, 2000 during which Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Syria and the Protocol on Cooperation in the sphere of TV and Radio broadcasting was reviewed.

Shri Arun Jaitley also visited London (United Kingdom) from 6th to 9th February, 2000 to attend a Special International Seminar on Convergence and Broadcasting Regulations.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Information and Broadcasting Minister visited France and UK from 13th May to 19th May, 2001. As a result of her meeting with the French Minister for Culture and Communications, both countries agreed on setting up on a Sub-Group on films under the aegis of the Indo-French Forum. The visit also included a stopover at the ongoing Cannes Film Market where India had set up an Indian Pavilion, for the first time, to promote Indian films and software by providing a common platform for all Indian participants to interact with their counterparts from various countries. Her visit to Cannes focused media attention on the Indian Pavilion and on Indian films. In London, the Minister visited Institutions connected with film and broadcasting industries,

including the BBC. The experience of BBC, as a public broadcaster, was discussed in order to get inputs for policy-making in the realm of Public Broadcast in India.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Information and Broadcasting visited Japan, USA and UK from 12th June to 22nd June, 2001. As a Leader of the delegation of the top captains of Indian Entertainment Industry (brought together by FICCI), she visited Japan and USA. Some of the immediate achievements are: (i) the possibility of more Indian films being released in Japan, with the NHK considering to increase the number of Indian films screened by them (ii) talks have been initiated by Indian companies with their Japanese counterparts for doing animation work in India (iii) an increased interest evinced by US companies and International Finance Corporation (IFC) in funding the media and broadcast sectors (iv) an offer of assistance from Motion Picture Association of America (MPA) to help curb piracy of Indian films in the US. In addition, the members of the delegation got extensive opportunity to interact with their overseas counterparts.

In UK, the Minister held discussions with Regulator for Telecommunications Industries (OFTEL) which provided useful inputs for setting up similar institutions in India, in the light of convergence technology.

Fraud in Awarding Commercial Rights in Sunday Feature Film

1593. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has recently booked senior officials of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati for fraudulently awarding commercial rights of the Sunday feature film slot in Bengali on Kolkata Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much pecuniary benefit was given to the company?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CBI/ACB/Kolkata have registered case *vide* No. RC. 19/2001 dated 8/6/2001 against the following officials of Doordarshan and Prasar Bharati:

(i) Shri Kalyan Ghosh, Assistant Station Director, Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata.

(ii) Shri A.K. Biswas, the then Director, Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata.

(iii) Shri Anurag Misra, the then Controller of Sales, Prasar Bharati, New Delhi.